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THE RISE OF CLASSICAL ENGLISH CRITICISM. By James Routh. New Orleans: Tulane University Press. 101 pages.

This pamphlet traces the "history of the canons of English literary taste and rhetorical doctrines, from the beginning of English criticism to the death of Dryden." In order to set definite limits to his work, the author defines the science of criticism as "the science of rhetoric in its largest sense"; and "the history of criticism is the history of rhetorical principles as they have changed from century to century, and grown in changing." The subject is treated in the following chapters: The Rule of Law, The Purpose of Literary Art, Types of Literature, Materials Suitable for Literature, Style, Verse Technique. Professor Routh has read widely and judiciously and makes his conclusions with discrimination and critical insight. It is to be regretted, however, that he did not take pains to polish his own work so as to avoid, in paragraph after paragraph, such wearisome repetitions as: "Another dictum," "Another important point," "Another fundamental principle," "Another distinct pronouncement," etc.

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BIBLICAL LIBRARIES. By Ernest Cushing Richardson. Princeton: University Press.

The Introduction discusses the question "What is a Library?" and at what seems undue length belabors the Assyriologists for seeking to limit the term "library" so as to apply only to a "large literary collection." The author's own conclusion is that "A library is a book or a collection of books kept for use, and one kind of book kept for use is the original or official copy of a public document," so that "archive" may be defined as one kind of library. Though the book covers "the period of Biblical history from about the first dynasty of Egypt, or say 3400 B.C. (or 4200), until the death of the last of those who figure in the books of the New Testament, or say the middle of the second century A.D.," the question naturally suggests itself why did not the author explain his use of the term "Biblical" as applied to collections of books, or brick tablets, or rolls, in Babylonia, Egypt, and Persia? The book is, however, both scholarly and

interesting, and the text is accompanied by many illustrations and plans of ancient temples and various buildings used for the housing of books.

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GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES IN OLD TESTAMENT MASTERPIECES. By Laura H. Wild. Boston: Ginn & Company.

The purpose of this book is "to give illustrations of how Old Testament literature is interpreted through the geography, history, botany, and zoölogy of the land in which it is written." For example, the story of Joseph sold to the caravan of Ishmaelites is interpreted in its relation to the old coast road of Palestine; some of the Psalms of David as well as the story of Abraham and Isaac are taken to illustrate the feeling of the Ancient Hebrews for the hill country. Each chapter has a supplementary list of suggested readings and of books for more extended commentary. The book thus helps the student to relate the Bible more intimately to its original setting, and should serve to make each story concrete and vivid in all its details. It is intended for high school classes studying Old Testament literature, for teachers of general literature, for beginners in college Bible classes, or for teachers in the Sunday School. It contains excellent photographs of scenes in the Holy Land, and it is attractively written, so that it is well suited to read aloud to the children in the home circle.

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WILD BIRD GUESTS. By Ernest Harold Baynes. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company.

In the Foreword the author declares that a fundamental solution of the problem of conserving our wild birds lies in creating an interest in and love for the birds, so that a large majority of people will not only have no desire to kill the birds, but will actually fight to prevent their destruction. "Because of the enormous value of birds—economic, æsthetic, and moral—the writer believes that it is the duty of every civilized community to take its part in a great world-wide campaign for the conservation of bird life, and he knows of no more practical way to do this than by the organization of a bird club whose